



City of Seattle  
***Seattle City Council***

**Strengthening Seattle's Future:**

The 2004-2005 Seattle City Council Agenda  
A Status Report for 2004

**Message from President Jan Drago:**

In February 2004, the Seattle City Council and key staff began working to develop a Council agenda for 2004-2005. The resulting six-point agenda was then presented to Seattle citizens through a series of five community meetings geographically dispersed throughout the City. The citizen feedback was then used to refine this agenda that had the following priorities:

1. Pass a 2005-2006 Budget that is financially sustainable through partnerships, cost savings and possible new revenue sources.
2. Strengthen Seattle's intergovernmental relationships with local, regional, tribal, state, and federal governments to develop the partnerships needed to successfully advance regional common interests.
3. Help citizens get from place to place by expanding transportation choices, maintaining the existing transportation system, making certain all transportation providers work together, and improving services in designated urban villages.
4. Commit to preserving and strengthening the social fabric of our City by identifying and providing services to those who need those services.
5. Promote and enhance public dialogue, debate and meaningful participation in government.
6. Maintain existing and increase living wage jobs citywide, and especially in distressed neighborhoods, through workforce investment, business development and improvement in the physical infrastructure.

The attached one-year status report presents the initial achievements of the Council in meeting these goals. Some stand out as victories, such as the passage of the Families and Education Levy. Others represent the quiet background work with other elected officials in the region, tribal leaders, neighborhood councils, service providers, and businesses. Most importantly, the Council's legislative work was shaped by these priorities in this two-year plan.

But our work is not completed; more remains for 2005. The region's improved economic outlook will enable the City Council to focus on improving Seattle's physical infrastructure and managing our resources for sustainability. We hope that our citizens will see these accomplishments as reflecting the priorities that they helped set one year ago.

# **Strengthening Seattle's Future:**

## **The 2004-2005 Seattle City Council Agenda**

### **A Status Report for 2004**

**Priority #1: Pass a 2005-2006 Budget that is financially sustainable through utilization of partnerships, cost savings and possible new revenue sources.**

**Objectives:**

**1.1 Contain City health care costs.**

- **Expand prevention/wellness strategies.**
- **Explore securing lower cost Canadian prescriptions for employees, City retirees, and citizens served by Public Health—Seattle & King County.**

***Accomplishments:***

- 1. Adopted Resolution 30673 directing City staff to study the feasibility of a Canadian prescription drug program; called for a review of additional strategies to further reduce health care costs for the City and its employees.*
- 2. Worked with City labor committees to lower City employee health care costs.*

**1.2 Seek additional budget savings through efficiencies.**

- **Work with departments to identify possible areas for continued cost savings, such as expanding the span of control of selected managers, and pursuing programs that partner with other governments and with citizens.**
- **Seek earlier Council and citizen involvement in the budget process and enhance efforts to make citizens aware of the progress of budget balancing efforts.**

***Accomplishments:***

- 1. Requested span of control study to be completed by the City Auditor in 2005.*
- 2. Convened five pre-budget community meetings with citizens to identify key issues.*
- 3. Held three public hearings during budget review process.*
- 4. Trimmed citywide drainage rate and utility expenses, reducing reservoir-covering costs.*
- 5. Worked with Seattle Public Utilities on an Asset Management fiscal strategy, which has decreased capital expense, resulting in smaller rate increases to users and less debt for the utility.*

**1.3 Explore additional revenue sources.**

- **Examine a broad range of possible sources of revenue that could be enacted by a vote of the Council. Arrange for feasibility review of such revenue sources by Office of Policy and Management.**
- **Explore possible ballot measures including exceeding the state 1% property tax increase cap.**

***Accomplishments:***

- 1. Examined a range of possible sources of revenue that could be enacted by a vote of the Council but determined the probability of success to be low at this time.*

**Priority #2: Strengthen Seattle’s intergovernmental relationships with local, regional, tribal, state, and federal governments to develop the partnerships needed to successfully advance regional common interests.**

**Objectives:**

**2.1 Develop and advance clear and proactive Council and City policies on critical regional challenges, including growth management, emergency preparedness, regional energy costs and BPA, transportation and infrastructure investment, wastewater, salmon recovery, human services, and annexation.**

***Accomplishments:***

1. *Created a regional coalition of elected officials to develop a joint 2005 State Legislative Agenda on Transportation. (This also applies to Objective 3.5.)*
2. *Promoted salmon restoration projects in the Green-Duwamish watershed.*
3. *Took a lead role in an economic development strategy for renewable resource industries.*
4. *Continued to work with regional partners to focus on salmon recovery throughout the City and the region, especially Skagit Valley where City Light has operations.*
5. *Held four key meetings with tribal officials to focus on mutual issues.*
6. *Sponsored Monorail amendments that focus on establishing a regional policy of standard fares for Metro, Monorail, and Sound Transit.*
7. *Secured approval for compromise to add light rail to I-90.*
8. *Reviewed annexation issues and deferred decision-making until policy is further developed.*
9. *Completed the update of the City Comprehensive Plan, which is required by the state of Washington Growth Management Act to be done every 10 years.*

**2.2 Strengthen means through which the Council participates in regional decision-making.**

- **Select forums of special interest and involve the Council as a whole in preparing for regional policy discussions.**
- **Identify new formal and informal outreach steps to build stronger relationships with regional partners.**

***Accomplishments:***

1. *Participated in Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) and Water Resources Inventory Area 8 (WRIA 8 ) to develop water quality policy.*
2. *Met with many of our regional wholesale water customers.*
3. *Met with Washington state legislators on transportation, health care, housing, and the Alaskan Way Viaduct.*
4. *Met with Washington state’s federal delegation on issues such as clean fuel, low emissions, and the Housing Trust Fund.*
5. *Collaborated with regional partners to consider options for maintaining, expanding or replacing SR520.*
6. *Participated in Association of Washington Cities (AWC) events such as designated Lobby Days, which focus on statewide issues that affect Seattle.*
7. *Provided leadership in developing a “Prosperity Partnership” with three other counties to formulate economic development strategies that benefit King, Snohomish, Pierce and Kitsap counties. Attendees included 1,100 leaders from business, non-profits, and the public sector, who discussed the goal of creating 100,000 new jobs by 2010.*

8. *Served as Puget Sound's Regional Council President. City membership in PSRC puts Seattle in partnership with cities and counties, working on mutual issues.*

**Priority #3: Help citizens get from place to place by expanding transportation choices, maintaining the existing transportation system, making certain all transportation providers work together, and improving services in designated urban villages.**

**Objectives:**

**3.1 Implement strategies to finance maintenance and improvement of the City's transportation infrastructure.**

***Accomplishments:***

1. *Worked with neighborhood groups to ensure that planned transportation projects were implemented.*
2. *Funded neighborhood traffic projects and core transportation maintenance projects in the City's budget.*
3. *Initiated a Citizen's Transportation Advisory Committee to advise on strategies for increasing local transportation funding.*

**3.2 Expand upon existing public engagement initiative to select a strategy for the Viaduct, , Seawall and Waterfront projects.**

***Accomplishments:***

1. *Held a large public comment meeting to solicit comment on the Alaskan Way Viaduct/Seawall project.*
2. *Developed a set of Guiding Principles to frame decision-making on the Alaskan Way Viaduct/Seawall Project.*
3. *Initiated and developed legislation that created a Safety and Transition Plan for the Alaskan Way Viaduct/Seawall Project.*
4. *Initiated collaboration with historian and author Paul Dorpat to create an informational publication on the history of Seattle's waterfront. This document will be published and presented in early to mid-2005.*
5. *Initiated collaboration with the University of Washington's Department of Landscape Architecture (and other departments) to create a Spring Studio Project to be presented in the summer of 2005 that concentrates on the design of the Seawall.*

**3.3 Advocate for the City and neighborhoods with the Seattle Monorail Project and Sound Transit and ensure these projects move forward.**

- **Work with Sound Transit to select the appropriate Northern link alignment.**
- **Ensure appropriate mitigation in transit-way agreements.**
- **Ensure that diverse modes of transportation are properly linked.**

***Accomplishments:***

1. *Sponsored Monorail plan amendments regarding financial audit and fare structure, while maintaining the focus on neighborhood issues in the plan.*
2. *Ensured that Seattle role and concerns regarding regional transportation were actively considered in Sound Transit plans via membership on the Sound Transit Board.*

3. *Worked successfully with the Roosevelt neighborhood and with Sound Transit to evaluate options for station location and to advocate for the 12th Ave. station location.*
4. *Supported the implementation of the Community Development Fund, which is designed to help businesses affected by the building of Sound Transit in Southeast Seattle.*

### **3.4 Increase pedestrian and bicycle mobility and build sidewalks through legislation, regulatory changes and budget prioritization.**

#### ***Accomplishments:***

1. *Advocated for pedestrian improvements in Chinatown/International District, Greenwood, Lake City Way, Beacon Hill, Pike-Pine, Fremont, Greenlake, Maple Leaf, and other neighborhoods.*
2. *Supported the development of an Open Space and Pedestrian Connection Plan for the Northgate Urban Center.*
3. *Convened Seattle Bicycle Facilities Collaborative in conjunction with the Bicycle Alliance of Washington to identify priorities for improving bike mobility in the city.*
4. *Co-sponsored Bicycle Summer 2004.*
5. *Worked with citizens and the University of Washington to include community participation in determining the legislation to increase the UW lease-lid restrictions, which resulted in regular review, and reporting on zoning in the University area. The focus of the change was to encourage mixed-use development with a pedestrian friendly environment.*

### **3.5 Expand efforts to secure additional transportation funding from State and Federal governments.**

#### ***Accomplishments:***

1. *Met with Washington state legislators on transportation, health care, housing and the Alaska Way viaduct/Seawall solutions.*

### **3.6 Develop and integrate transportation strategies that respond to the neighborhood plans of such neighborhoods undergoing major change and development as South Lake Union, Northgate, Ballard, Center City, University District and Rainier Valley.**

#### ***Accomplishments:***

1. *Initiated the development of a transportation demand management program for South Lake Union.*
2. *Initiated improvements to the Two-Way Mercer Project proposal, focusing on increased transit opportunities, better freight mobility and congestion relief.*
3. *Pursued the range of options to incorporate a South Lake Union streetcar into the transportation solutions for that area.*
4. *Coordinated the transportation plan for Northgate as described in the resolution which set out the agreed upon development and changes for Northgate as determined by the community leaders working with Council in 2003.*

### **3.7 Work with the business community to continue to enhance freight mobility within the City.**

#### ***Accomplishments:***

1. *Joined the state in opening the SR519 ramps.*

2. *Met with the Freight Mobility Roundtable to explore options for a viaduct replacement.*
3. *Worked to ensure that freight mobility projects are included in local, regional, and statewide transportation planning (such as the completion of SR509).*

**Priority #4: Commit to preserving and strengthening the social fabric of our City by identifying and providing services to those who need those services.**

**Objectives:**

- 4.1 Place renewal of the Families and Education Levy on the ballot, targeting ways to increase pre-kindergarten learning and development, support the families of children at risk, and lower the school dropout rate.**

***Accomplishments:***

1. *Passed the Families & Education Levy renewal package. Modified the initial package to reflect community and business concerns after visiting schools and the business community. Convened a stakeholders meeting and held a public hearing. In September 2004, voters approved the package by 63%.*
2. *Increased community oversight of the \$116M levy by expanding the group from three to eight positions; four appointed by Council and four appointed by the Mayor.*

- 4.2 Devise incentives and regulatory changes to encourage the private development of affordable housing.**

***Accomplishments:***

1. *Passed Ordinance 121415 modifying the multi-family tax exemption program. Legislation expands the program to 17 neighborhoods (including U-District and South Lake Union) and revises affordability housing guidelines to further encourage private and non-profit developers to set aside affordable work-force housing in exchange for a 10-year property tax exemption (on the land). This measure facilitated the increase of 224 affordable housing units for households within the 60-70% range of the City median income.*
2. *Raised Seattle's concerns for affordable housing to the table at the Washington State Housing Finance Commission.*

- 4.3 Strengthen and improve the City's response to Domestic Violence.**

***Accomplishments:***

1. *Supported a comprehensive assessment for domestic violence services, with Human Services as the lead department.*
2. *Adopted Statements of Legislative Intent for 2005: to assess a domestic violence (DV) budget reporting protocol, firearms forfeiture, and DV warrants.*
3. *Supported creation of new Domestic Violence Court within Municipal Court.*

- 4.4 Join in implementing the regional action plan to end homelessness, which brings together governments and non-profit organizations.**

***Accomplishments:***

1. *Participated in the process to develop a 10-year plan to end homelessness.*

2. *Funded \$3.2 million for a downtown homeless services center focused on meeting objectives of the 10-year plan.*
3. *Funded \$100,000 for the implementation of the strategic plan in the 2005 budget.*

**4.5 Improve the City's range of social services and secure resources from appropriate levels of government to support those services. Work with non-profit organizations to:**

- **Review how these services match demand in the community, and serve every segment of the population, including the elderly.**
- **Establish benchmarks and standards for service providers.**

***Accomplishments:***

1. *Approved a 2005-2006 budget that maintained direct human services funding from 2004.*
2. *Allocated \$24 million in federal CDBG, Home, HOPWA funds for housing and community development.*
3. *Adopted 2005-2008 Consolidated Plan which included a community "needs assessment" to evaluate highest human service priorities for Seattle.*
4. *Required that the Human Services Department develop minimum standards for shelter programs.*
5. *Adopted Resolution 30654 for the Human Services Department Strategic Investment Plan, which guides future policy and implementation of human services funding, paired with meaningful goals and outcomes.*
6. *Convened Section 8 Housing Forum (attended by 200 people) and adopted Resolution 30694 expressing City's opposition to federal cuts to housing choice voucher program.*

**Priority #5: Promote and enhance public dialogue, debate and meaningful participation in government.**

**Objectives:**

**5.1 Create opportunities for expanding knowledge and information sharing on City and Council activities.**

- **Establish expanded user-friendly presentation of performance statistics and service information on the City's website.**
- **Increase use of opinion columns in newspapers by Councilmembers and publication of special reports.**
- **Promote better ties to Neighborhood Service Centers, interactive video technology, improved explanations of Council processes, and increased language translation and other means of connecting with immigrants and other difficult to reach populations.**

***Accomplishments:***

1. *Attended Friday Neighborhood Service Center (NSC) organized neighborhood walks/meetings.*
2. *Convened an all-district meeting of Neighborhood Council chairs to discuss neighborhood issues.*
3. *Attended district council meetings on a regular basis.*
4. *Addressed key issues by authoring Op-Ed articles in major newspapers.*

5. *Convened a briefing and discussion with representatives from Snohomish County government which resulted in implementation of a “SnoStat” program that routinely provides citizens with numerical summaries for typical city services such as number of potholes filled, number of streetlights changed, etc.*
6. *Appropriated \$225,000 (2 FTE) in the 2005 budget to implement a similar data summary for Seattle (Sea-Stat) on the City website.*

## **5.2 Increase opportunities for citizens to influence decision-making.**

- **Develop a Council call-in radio show or Seattle Channel program.**
- **Expand community meetings held outside of City Hall.**
- **Strengthen relations with Community Councils.**
- **Provide increased time for public comment and involvement in Council meetings.**
- **Report back to the community on their role in the agenda-setting process and on the Council’s progress in meeting agenda priorities.**

### ***Accomplishments:***

1. *Launched “Council Conversations” in collaboration with the Seattle Channel as an opportunity to share with viewers the issues and perspectives of Council on key matters affecting the city and its residents.*
2. *Authored budget legislation creating the Community Production Opportunity Program at Seattle Channel for the purpose of creating and funding partnerships between the Seattle Channel, producers, associated staff, and community members. The goal of the program is to expand production of programs that reflect the cultural, ethnic, and linguistic diversity of the citizens of Seattle; programs that include more topics of concern and interest to a wider variety of Seattle citizens and citizens for whom English is not a first language.*
3. *Opened the process of confirmation of the City Light Superintendent and the development of the Nucor contract to public comment through use of public comment periods at the meeting of the Council as a Whole and by holding a public hearing.*
4. *Established public comment period at start of all standing committees, Committees of the Whole, and Full Council meetings.*

## **5.3 Provide interactive forums for public participation in City Council decision-making.**

- **Expand brown bag forums.**
- **Increase use of web-based dialogues.**
- **Develop key issue forums using panels, experts or debates on selected topics.**

### ***Accomplishments:***

1. *Launched a new Council webpage format and new citywide webpage format (Seattle.Gov), with more information and more online services.*
2. *Invited citizens to help formulate this Council Agenda by holding 6 public meetings in a variety of city locations. Held brown bag forums. A sample of the topics includes: Public Comment and Questions re: Jorge Carrasco; Canadian Prescription Drugs; Labor Management Leadership Commission; Sustainable Strategies for South Lake Union; Monorail Elevated Walkway and Westlake Mall; Neighborhoods and Nightlife Activities; Precautionary Principles re: Comprehensive Plan; Business Roundtable; Salmon Habitat Recovery (3); Cascadia Project; Section 8 Housing Vouchers; Hydrogen Highway and Fuel Cells; Private Sector Investment in South Lake Union; Sustainability & Quality of Life in Seattle; Biotechnology and Global Health; Transportation Funding Sources;*



- Viaduct/Seawall; Bicycle Facilities Collaborative; Future of Family Wage Jobs in Seattle; Comprehensive Plan Amendments; Gay Pride History; Crime Against Senior Citizens.*
3. *Expanded the information gathering and deliberative process for budget development discussions, City Light hearings, and the building of the Family and Education Levy via meetings with citizens and business leaders.*

#### **5.4 Institute community dialogue on police relations.**

- **Improve communication between Seattle Police Department and the community, especially communities of color.**
- **Strengthen citizen advisory groups and their communication with the Council.**
- **Review allocation of police staffing.**

#### ***Accomplishments:***

1. *Initiated a patrol staffing review with the assistance of the Seattle Police Officer's Guild to determine whether the budgeted number of sworn patrol officers is consistent with the actual numbers of officers on the street. This will continue as a 2005 project.*
2. *Convened a community public safety forum to address a series of strong-armed robberies in Southeast Seattle, which was attended by 100 members of the community and members of the Seattle Police Department.*
3. *Worked with the Mayor's office on Day of Dialogue between police and the community as a follow-up to the Vera Institute of Justice Report. This report describes the results of a telephone survey of Seattle residents. The survey was commissioned by the City of Seattle to assess the public's level of satisfaction with the police department and to identify possible friction points in police-public interactions. This will continue as a 2005 project.*
4. *Reviewed Office of Professional Accountability Review Board (OPARB) 2003 Year-end Report and invited community stakeholders to give feedback on recommendations for improvement to OPARB.*
5. *Encouraged Police Precinct commanders to improve diversity on precinct advisory council by recommending candidates who are renters, are low income, or have other diverse characteristics represented in the neighborhood.*
6. *Attended nearly all of the geographically organized Precinct Advisory Council meetings.*
7. *Attended meetings of the Crime Prevention Council, all organized through Seattle Neighborhood Group.*

### **Priority #6: Maintain existing and increase living wage jobs citywide, and especially in distressed neighborhoods, through workforce investment, business development and improvement in the physical infrastructure.**

#### **Objectives:**

##### **6.1 Target additional tools and resources to distressed communities.**

#### ***Accomplishments:***

1. *Joined Mayor Greg Nickels and the Manufacturing Industrial Council in hosting an "Industrial Summit" to explore ways the City and community could support industrial employers in Seattle. There were 200 attendees. Also sponsored an economic development forum and two brown bag discussion sessions at City Hall to follow-up on specific areas of interest regarding industrial employers.*

2. *Provided leadership in developing a “Prosperity Partnership” with three other counties to formulate economic development strategies that benefit King, Snohomish, Pierce and Kitsap counties. Attendance included 1,100 leaders from business, non-profit organizations and the public sector to discuss a goal of creating 100,000 new jobs by 2010. This action also reflects priority #2 of this agenda that identifies a focus on regional partnerships.*
3. *Served as Puget Sound Regional Council President. City membership in PSRC puts Seattle in a partnership with cities and counties that are working on mutual issues and problems.*

## **6.2 Expand contracting opportunities for woman and minority-owned enterprises.**

- **Develop new programs within the constraints of I-200.**
- **Secure changes in the law.**

### ***Accomplishments:***

1. *Met with I-200 task force to determine best course of action to promote ensuring a stake in employment and business opportunities for women and minority communities in the city.*
2. *Continued to focus on social equity goals in contracting process for Seattle’s Capital Improvement Projects (CIP).*

## **6.3 Explore means to make business regulation smoother and more efficient.**

- **Modify the Business and Occupations tax and establish tax increment financing to spur business development and increase investment in underserved areas.**

### ***Accomplishments:***

1. *Lobbied in Olympia for tax increment financing authority.*

## **6.4 Focus on new ways to support small business.**

### **Better utilize micro-financing programs.**

- **Secure new financial resources for such programs.**

### ***Accomplishments:***

1. *Focused on developing lower drainage rate and utility costs, which are part of attracting new businesses and relocated businesses.*
2. *Revised business license fees to differentiate based on revenue, which supports lower costs for small businesses.*